

## **Unit 6. Lower Nushagak Uplands**

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### **Background**

**Land Status.** The unit is in multiple ownership. Much of the land is owned by the state, Choggiung Ltd., Ekwok Natives Ltd., and Stuyahok Ltd. Smaller amounts of land are owned by Saguyak Inc. and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. The eastern edge of the unit is owned by the federal government and managed by BLM. The western portion of the unit is adjacent to Wood-Tikchik State Park. Thirteen Native allotments are located in the unit. Nunachuak Creek is navigable; the state owns the shorelands.

**Access.** The unit is easily accessible by snowmobile. Float planes can access lakes west of Kemuk Mountain and east of the Nushagak River. The unit is near a major airport in Dillingham.

**Existing Development.** Only one cabin is documented in the unit; it is likely that others exist.

**Fisheries.** Fisheries values are generally low.

Subsistence fishing use is moderate for freshwater species. Sport fishing use of Nushagak tributary streams is low now, but may increase slowly.

**Wildlife.** Moose density is low to moderate. Caribou are sometimes abundant east of the river. The Muklung Hills vicinity provides essential brown bear denning habitat.

Subsistence moose hunting use is moderate near drainages; caribou hunting use is high in winter. The caribou season is closed west of the Nushagak River. Sport hunting use is low because of expense of access and private land ownership.

**Trails and Easements.** The winter trail from Portage Creek to Naknek is a possible RS-2477 right-of-way. The following 17(b) easements are located in this unit: EIN 2-1, 6, 8b, 9a, 10a, 11a, 14a, 15a, 16a, 17a, 19a, 20, 20b, 34, and 38. (Refer to the maps in the envelope in the back of this document for descriptions of these easements.)

**Other Values.** The northwest portion of the unit, near Wood-Tikchik State Park, is forested and hilly and has moderate scenic value because of high landscape diversity. Low relief and tundra in much of the unit provide low scenic value. Local residents trap in drainages during the winter.

## **Management Intent**

Semi-primitive use experience.

## **Management Guidelines**

### **Long-term Use (longer than 14 consecutive days at one site):**

Permanent facilities	Prohibited.
Temporary facilities	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Trapping cabins	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Boat storage	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Airstrip development	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Docks: permanent	Prohibited.
temporary	May be allowed (case-by-case).
Other uses	May be allowed (case-by-case).

### **Short-term Use (14 consecutive days or less at one site):**

See Short-term Uses (generally allowed uses) in Chapter 2.

## **Other Guidelines Specific to this Unit**

- U6.1 Long-term Uses Associated with Mineral/Oil and Gas Activity. For long-term uses associated with mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, see Chapter 2 guideline.
- U6.2 Siting Criteria. Long-term uses will be sited to minimize evidence of human use.

## **Public Use Sites**

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations of sites are shown on maps in Appendix C.

Site 12 Campsite and floatplane landing area on an unnamed lake, 15 miles north of Okstukuk Lake.

## **Recommendations for this Unit**

None.